



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII  
901 NORTH 5TH STREET  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

11.9 JUN 2007

James Rost  
Office of Location and Environment  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Mr. Rost:

RE: Review of Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bellevue Bridge Study, Mills, County, Iowa, and Sarpy County, Nebraska, Iowa DOT Project Number – NHSX-34-1(63)-19-65

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Bellevue Bridge Study. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The DEIS was assigned the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) number 2007022.

Thank you for addressing our comments regarding the fate of the existing bridge, wetlands, hazardous materials, and floodplains. We commend your efforts to address the floodplain issue including the culvert system design to facilitate drainage and minimize adverse impacts associated with flood events exceeding the 100-year frequency.

The acquisition of the 167-acre conservation easement, as part of this project, is an exemplary example of an ecosystem-based mitigation agreement which demonstrates your commitment to protection of the riverine ecosystem and provides for land management for the benefit of riverine fish and wildlife species, including the federally endangered pallid sturgeon and threatened bald eagle.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding this project and the FEIS. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (913) 551-7975.

Sincerely,

Kimberly O. Johnson, P.E.  
NEPA Reviewer  
Environmental Services Division